



# HDI

## HEALTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

*Striving for a healthy society*

# Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017



# GlobeMed Interns Build Gardens

June 14th - July 24th

This summer, HDI hosted 3 GlobeMed interns from Lawrence University, Wisconsin. During their 6-week visit, these undergraduate students collaborated with the Community of Potters and HDI staff to promote nutrition and food security by building gardens. Together, we built **84** sack gardens in Masoro and **51** kitchen gardens in Cyaruzinge. Every family received at least one garden for personal consumption. These gardens promoted eating a variety of nutritious vegetables, including bell peppers, carrots, onions, and celery. We at HDI look forward to helping these community members foster their new gardens and continuing our partnership with GlobeMed by welcoming more interns for next summer.



## Teaching Female University Students about Family Planning

July 7th

In collaboration with the [Akilah Institute for Women](#), HDI participated in a training for female university students. HDI staff educated **200** first year students on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies by properly using family planning and contraceptives. This presentation coincides with HDI's continued efforts to empower young women to be leaders to their peers by campaigning the protection of their health and rights.



## Values Clarification Workshops for Counselors and Medical Students

August 8-9th

HDI collaborated with [Catholics for Choice](#) to host two workshops for **28** counselors and **30** medical students entitled "[Abortion: Values, Perspectives, and Realities.](#)" These workshops provided a safe space for participants to constructively discuss sensitive issues surrounding abortion in Rwanda. Counselors and medical students reflected on their personal values on abortion and discussed how this would impact their work as healthcare professionals.

# Youtubers Interview SHARE Peer Educators

September 8th

In partnership with the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#), HDI welcomed two of Sweden's biggest Youtube celebrities, **Clara Henry** and **Johan Hedberg**. Together their channels have more than half a million subscribers. Clara interviewed Peer Educators about their work with HDI's Project SHARE and their personal views on reproductive health and rights. The students shared with her about how important it is to openly discuss sexual health and rights with their classmates and communities. HDI is proud of our Peer Educators for speaking out in favor of comprehensive sexuality education. We thank Clara and Johan for sharing our Project SHARE with their online audiences.



# Workshop on Debating Sexual and Reproductive Rights for University Women Leaders

**September 26th**

HDI held a workshop with **18** representatives of **The Girls Leader's Forum** from **10** universities. This workshop educated female university student leaders about sexual and reproductive rights and empowered them on debate implementation. Later this year they will host debates at their schools which will focus on issues regarding abortion in order to raise awareness.



"[This workshop was] eye opening because most of us didn't know anything about that...I didn't know anything that will help someone who is assaulted or is raped to have some rights. I thought you would keep quiet and it becomes a taboo to you. But then, I came to find out there is a place or there is a help that can be given to such a person." -Lucky Mbabazi, member of The Girls Leader's Forum





## Workshop for Lawyers on Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Rights September 15th

HDI held a workshop with **30** Rwandan lawyers on the current status of the law regarding abortion. Many people, including even legal experts, are unaware that there are exemptions from criminal liability for abortion in Rwanda in certain circumstances. This workshop updated participants on domestic laws and international instruments regarding sexual and reproductive rights, provided a space to discuss legal and ethical issues surrounding abortion, and encouraged them to advance sexual and reproductive rights in their capacity as lawyers.



## Workshop for Journalists on Reporting Sexual and Reproductive Rights September 29th

HDI held a workshop for **23** Rwandan journalists on the importance of raising awareness on sexual and reproductive rights through journalism. Participants were sensitized on the law regarding abortion in Rwanda and discussed the role that journalism can play in raising public awareness and advocating for social change. HDI encouraged these journalists to tackle sensitive and important topics like abortion in their stories so that public discourse can begin to address taboo issues.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

- Ministry of Health
- Rwanda Bio-Medical Center
- Rwanda Governance Board
- Amplify Change
- Catholics for Choice
- The Center for Reproductive Rights
- The David and Lucille Packard Foundation
- DFID
- The Embassy of the Netherlands
- The Embassy of Sweden
- FOSI
- GIZ
- Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB, and Malaria
- Global Health Corps
- GlobeMed
- Jumelage/Rhineland-Palatinate
- Norwegian People's Aid
- Peace Corps
- PSA
- PSF/Emory University
- Promundo
- UHAI-EASHRI
- UNAIDS
- UNICEF
- ViiV Healthcare

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